Ethnomusicology Ensembles

in the
Department of Music

Come Join Us!

University of Alberta
Department of Music

Ethnomusicology Ensembles

The department of music supports two ethnomusicology performance ensembles: The Indian Music Ensemble and The West African Music Ensemble. These groups provide an exciting opportunity to learn about world music through practical instruction and performance. Each of these open courses is available for credit as a part of a music program or as a Fine Arts option.

Students must register prior to September 10. Credit will NOT be granted after that date.

Indian Music Ensemble

The Indian Music Ensemble studies the rich tradition of classical Indian music through group instruction and performance. Members learn the basics of *raga* (melody) and *tala* (rhythm), through instruction in singing, *tabla* (drums), *sitar* (plucked lute), *sarangi* (bowed lute), *bansuri* (flute), or harmonium. The ensemble has had the opportunity to attend many workshops with internationally known guest artists such as *Sitarist* Shujaat Husain Khan and *Sarangi* player Narayan Kalle. In addition to their "Celebration of Diwali" concert in Convocation Hall, the group has performed at a variety of events including a concert for India earthquake relief and fundraisers for the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation for World Peace. They are regularly featured at the Centre for Ethnomusicology's "World Music Sampler" and the University of Alberta International Week. A set of rental instruments is available for registered students.

Ensemble Directors

Dr Regula Qureshi is the director and founder of the Indian Music Ensemble and the University of Alberta Centre for Ethnomusicology. After studying cello at the Curtis Institute of Music, Regula received her M.M. and PhD in anthropology/ethnomusicology at the University of Alberta. Dr Qureshi studied the *Sarangi* (bowed lute) in India and is a well-respected scholar of North Indian musical traditions. She is author of the book *Sufi Music of India and Pakistan: Sound, Context, and Meaning in Qawwali* and numerous other publications include contributions to *The New Grove Encyclopedia of Music and Musicians, Ethnomusicology, The Journal of Musicology* and *Popular Music*. In 1996, she was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr Amelia Maciszewsky is the Killam Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta. Her extensive knowledge of North Indian music is a result of years of study with well-

known musicians such as singer Girja Devi and *Sitarist* Ashish Khan. Amelia is a graduate of Shanti Niketan and the University of Texas in Austin. A dedicated scholar and activist, her current research focuses primarily on female musicians of Northern India.

Audition: There is no audition for the course. The course is available to all students at the University of Alberta with permission of the department. Ability to read music is not required. Students should come to the meeting for consent in Studio 27 (FAB 2-7) on September 3, at 6:30 pm.

Rehearsals (Attendance is required): Tuesdays, 6:30 to 9:30 pm in Studio 27 (FAB 2-7).

The West African Music Ensemble

The West African Music Ensemble studies the polyphonic and polyrhythmic music of West Africa with a particular focus on the music of the Ewe people. This music combines song, dance and percussion. Because each component is crucial to the experience of Ewe music, all members participate as dancers, singers and drummers. In March 2002, new pieces were added to our repertoire when Ghanaian Master Drummer, Frederick Kwasi Dunyo, conducted a week of workshops with the ensemble that culminated in a successful concert. The group has also performed at events such as the Global Visions Festival, The Peace Century Conference, the University of Alberta International Week, the opening of Black History Month, and the Centre for Ethnomusicology's World Music Sampler. The ensemble is fortunate to own a complete set of authentic West African instruments.

Audition: There is no audition for the course. The course is available to all students at the University of Alberta with permission of the department. Ability to read music is not required. Students should come to the meeting for consent in Studio 27 (FAB 2-7) on September 4, 6:30 pm.

Rehearsals (Attendance is required): Wednesdays, 6:30 to 9:30 pm in Studio 27 (FAB 2-7).

Dr Michael Frishkopf is the founder and director of the West African Music Ensemble. A musician, mathematician and scholar, he holds degrees from Yale, Tufts, and UCLA. His study of West African music began when he became a member of the Boston based West African music group, Agbekor, led by noted West African Music scholar, David Locke. He continued his studies of the music of West Africa at Tufts University, later conducting fieldwork in the Volta region of Ghana with Frederick Kwasi Dunyo. His current research interests include the music of Egypt as well as social network and systems theory.

For further information about The University of Alberta

Indian Music Ensemble,
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West African Music Ensemble,
contact Dr Michael Frishkopf at 492-0670
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